

The November 10, 2016 Informational meeting of the Church Hill Road Sewer District #1 was called to order at 7:15 pm by Supervisor Tollisen in the A. James Bold Meeting Room at the New Town Hall with the following members present:

Kevin J. Tollisen, Supervisor
Paul L. Hotaling, Councilman
John P. Wasielewski, Councilman
Cathy L. Drobny, Deputy Town Attorney
Dan Rourke, Executive Director of the Saratoga County Sewer Districts
Bob Wilcox, Saratoga County Attorney & Attorney for the Sewer District

Supervisor Tollisen: Thank you for coming tonight. I am going to go over the handout that you were given. For the people that didn't show up tonight, if you could spread the word to them but we will be sending them a letter with what is happening here.

About 20 years ago there was a contract agreement between the Town of Halfmoon and Saratoga County Sewer District. That contract states that when the debt obligations of the Church Hill Road Sewer District are paid off then Saratoga County Sewer District would permanently take over the ownership and maintenance of the sewer lines and everything that goes with that.

Every year you pay this \$557.00 bill on your taxes and in 2017 that's going to be gone. There is no more debt obligation because it is finally paid off. Over the last several months the town and the sewer district have been working together to make the transfer happen. We are ready to proceed forward with transferring Church Hill Road Sewer District to Saratoga County Sewer District. The future tax bills will show as follows:

- There will be a \$224.00 maintenance fee. The \$224.00 charge may go up \$15.00 in 2017 and referred to Dan for confirmation
- There is a \$50.00 fee and that is for the smaller lines for servicing

That is what will be on your future tax bills from Saratoga County Sewer District. It will have nothing to do with the Town of Halfmoon. For Church Hill Road Sewer District to be transferred, two things are needed:

- You have grinder pumps at your house. They were put in 20 years ago or so and basically, to turn those off we would need to go into your house to do it. For safety reasons, the sewer district is asking all residents to put in a disconnect switch outside at the road. If there is an issue, instead of knocking

on your door, they will be able to shut it off at the road. It is easier and they can get to the problem quicker and not wait for someone to get home.

- Internally, I asked our technician that we use here at town his opinion as to what a disconnect switch would cost. He thought the cost based upon the specifications I have given you as well what came from the sewer district would be \$250.00. My suggestion to you is that you all get together and get a contractor to do everybody and probably get a much better deal. The disconnect switches are needed and we ask that you do them and give us some confirmation that it's done so that we can pass that information on to the sewer districts so they know it's complete.

Questions were posed from the audience and could not be heard.

Dan Rourke: Good question, my electrician at the plant Jim Boni gave me the specification. It made sense to me. In terms of possible money savings if there is for that disconnect, I'm open to that. I want to ask Jim because he is the guy who is out there at 3:00 in the morning and I want him to feel safe. If he's OK with it then I would be OK with it.

Councilman Connors: Robin, I think what you are doing is you are just hitting off just so everybody knows that a lockout point for a single point isolation right?

Robin: Could not be heard.

Councilman Connors: You would have universal keys similar to a lockout/tag out is what it is that isolates that area. The county employees would have the keys. It is the same lock for the county. They come up and they key it and isolate it.

Resident spoke but could not be heard

Dan Rourke: I understand what you are saying. Call us and we work that out. That's not a problem. Yes, you are right, coordination is key.

Resident spoke but could not be heard

Dan Rourke: Yes, it is not a current policy for many portions of the county that we do this but this agreement that was written however many years ago, we are obligated and we will live up to that obligation.

I have a question; the old rule of thumb was the homeowner would be responsible from the grinder pump to the house

Dan Rourke: That will continue

Resident spoke but could not be heard

Dan Rourke: Not a problem. We would want that too, like you said, a public health scenario. I was not aware. If you give me your name & address I will address it on Monday.

Supervisor Tollisen: Dan, I will give you a copy that list and give you Patrick's information so you guys can catch up.

Supervisor Tollisen: The second part of this is there are recorded grinder pump agreements that were filed with the county some 20 years ago. Those agreements allow maintenance of the lines and whatever is needed with respect to the sewer on your property. Those grinder pump agreements, they are what the county had wanted back 20 years ago. To get more in line with the reality of today's world, what Saratoga County Sewer District would like is actual permanent easements. They want permanent easements filed with the County Clerk. So what we have done, there are generic easements that have been prepared for each homeowner. It is a permanent right away easement for insulation, maintenance, inspection, repair, relining, removal, replacement, improvement, use and operation of a sanitary sewer line and any impurities thereto. So what it basically does, it allows the county a permanent right of way to get into your property for purposes of maintaining those sewer lines, which is basically what you want. It also states in there that they have the right to access the property. Please understand that they also have the right if you put trees or something on top of those sewer lines and they need to be replaced, understand that they can go in there and take those out and not have to replace them. Hopefully that is not the case for anybody. With the grinder pump agreements they basically have that right now, but they are looking for each homeowner to sign a permanent right of way easement.

We have those available tonight for each household. If you are OK with signing them tonight, then our Deputy Town Attorney can notarize them. If you prefer to take them and review them yourself or have your attorney review them, that is certainly fine as well. We just need them back at some point so that we can finish with the transfer of this to Saratoga County Sewer District. So this is the second component that is needed to finish this off.

Feel free to ask questions after we are done here

Dan Rourke: Can I clarify something too Kevin? This easement here tonight actually defines it a little bit more than what was defined in the grinder pump agreement. It actually gives you a little bit more protection than what was awarded in the grinder pump agreement that was signed 20+ years ago.

Supervisor Tollisen: That is basically the extent of our presentation. I will open it up to questions.

Resident spoke but could not hear.

Dan Rourke: It might be tough to get done this winter. Ideally, it's done in 6 months. I'm OK with that.

Resident spoke but could not hear.

Supervisor Tollisen: That is the annual OMN that the sewer district charges

Dan Rourke: \$224.00 that is not just the system in Church Hill Road. That pays for all of what it takes to treat waste water at the waste water treatment plant that is located in the town which is extensive, it is energy intensive. And to be candid, \$224.00 is a deal, it's one of the lowest rates in the Capital Region let alone the state. I understand it's

Resident spoke but could not hear.

Councilman Connors: I think if you look at your bill total is what you'll be paying. The difference will be \$300 and something based off of that I believe. I just looked at my bill the other day and trying to explain it to my wife of course, and it would be about a \$300 savings.

Supervisor Tollisen: On the tax bill last year, the \$511.17 but you also paid the \$224.00. The only difference that you are really going to expect here is a \$50.00 additional fee. So we are removing the \$511.17 and you are getting \$50.00 in place of it. The \$224.00 is already there and the \$511.17 is off. This will be on the 2017 town & county tax bill.

Resident spoke but could not hear.

Supervisor Tollisen: Your sewer is on your town & county tax bill once a year and your water usage if you are on municipal water is quarterly.

Resident spoke but could not hear.

Dan Rourke: I think that is a great idea. I will talk to him early next week and see if we can put a sketch together

Supervisor Tollisen: When you sign in tonight we ask that you put down your email address so we can get together a group which will include Dan & Bob and whoever Dan wants on and hopefully it will grow as you talk to you neighbors. Know that

you can certainly call my office and my secretary Lisa will answer the phone and she takes good care of everybody. We will help as much as we can and if we don't have the answers, we will get them, OK?

Resident spoke but could not hear.

Supervisor Tollisen: Before you guys leave, please come up and get your easements. If you want to sign them tonight, great. If you don't, please circle back with us. Thank you very much for coming and please spread the word to your neighbors.